

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the previously cited Van Den Hoven and Parulski references. In response, all of the claims with the exception of independent Claim 13 and dependent Claims 15-17, have been cancelled, whereas Claim 13 has been amended in a manner which is believed to provide clear patentable distinctions over the cited prior art for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, independent Claim 13 now requires that an image processing apparatus of the present invention, which includes a reproducing unit that reproduces a part of a moving image from a storage medium during a predetermined reproduction time, is arranged to reproduce not only that part of the moving image but also the remaining part thereof, if it is determined that a first button (e.g., a reproduction button) is pressed before the predetermined reproduction time is passed. Also, the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image is terminated, and a start of reproduction of a next still image or moving image is commenced, if it is determined that a second button (e.g., a stop button) is pressed during the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image, while reproduction of the next still image or moving image is started, if reproduction of the moving image reaches the end of the moving image. These features of the present invention are supported by the description of the first embodiment, for example.

The above-described features of the present invention are not disclosed by the cited references. Specifically, in the Office Action it is stated that the Van Den Hoven reference “does not explicitly teach that the image processing apparatus starts selection of a next still image or moving image in order to reproduce the next still image or moving image from the storage

medium, if reproduction of the moving image reaches the end of the moving image." In this connection, the Office Action refers to paragraphs [0044] and [0059] of the Parulski reference. That reference discloses a reproduction mode in which index images are displayed to be selected, and a moving image corresponding to the selected index image is reproduced. In addition, Parulski teaches to combine "several motion video image segments" (e.g., [0044] and [0059]) and reproduce the combined video image segments "one immediately after the other" (e.g., [0044]). However, Parulski does not disclose Applicant's requirement of terminating the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image and then starting reproduction of a next still image or moving image, if it is determined that a second button is pressed during the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image, while reproduction of the next still image or moving image is started, if reproduction of the moving image reaches the end of the moving image.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the requirements of amended independent Claim 13 are not disclosed by a combination of the Van Den Hoven and Parulski references, wherefore a Notice of Allowance is solicited in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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